

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/594,029

Examiner

Paul Nguyen-Ba

Applicant(s)

TSUKAMOTO, KOJI

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Request for Continued Examination filed on 12/7/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Heather R. Hemdon
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's particular method of: i) "*obtaining a context of an extracted character string by performing language analysis of the extracted character string*" and identifying a reason why the referred document is cited by retrieving the reason from a table using the "*context of the extracted character string*" as a reference feature, and ii) "*searching the document data for a pattern which matches one of the numeral patterns stored in said first pattern data list storage device, checking whether numerals contained in searched patterns increase consecutively as the document data are searched*" and extracting information about the position by searching a "*second pattern data list storage device if the numerals increase consecutively*" would not have been obvious over, nor would have been fairly suggested by the closest prior art of record.

The closest prior art of record, Egger et al. ("Egger"), U.S. Patent No. 6,233,571, in view of Lawrence et al. ("Lawrence"), U.S. Patent No. 6,289,342, teach a method for storing an XML document in a relational database system (see Title and Abstract) comprising:

➤ *a reference feature/reference reasons correspondence table indicating correspondence between reference features and reference reasons* (see col. 12 lines 40-45 and col. 14 lines 2-27 → Egger teaches

Art Unit: 2176

that a table is used to correlate or map a node (i.e. section of a document) with reasons for citation (i.e. source links, influence links, overruled, followed, etc.));

➤ *a referred document extracting device extracting document information about a referred document from given document data (see Figure 3B - 96; column 4, lines 3-5; column 16, lines 37-39, 55+ → The Initial Extractor Subroutine extracts and initializes data information);*

➤ *an identification device identifying a reason indicating why the referred document is cited by retrieving the reason from the reference feature/reference reason correspondence table (...), the reason including at least one of answer, application, basic, contraposition, human, related work, review, software, technique, weak correlation and similar (see col. 12 lines 40-45 and col. 14 lines 2-27 → Egger teaches that a table is used to correlate or map a node (i.e. section of a document) with reasons for citation (i.e. source links, influence links, overruled, followed, etc.)); and*

➤ *an output device outputting output information including the information extracted by the referred document extracting device and the reason why the referred document is cited (see Figure 5A-5H; column 5, lines 56-57; column 28, lines 24-25; column 29, lines 32-38 → Egger displays key precedent and guidance as to possible gradations in between extensive or merely citing); and*

Lawrence teaches a citation indexing system that autonomously extracts citations and identifies the context of citations in the body of

articles (see col. 1 lines 10-17; col. 5 lines 50-56). Citation identifiers are used to find the locations and positions in the document body where the citations are actually made. This allows extraction of the features (i.e. context) of the citations (see col. 9 lines 31-39). Furthermore, the context may contain reasons for citation by a referring document such as a brief summary of the paper, another author's response to the paper, or a subsequent work that builds upon the original article (see col. 6 lines 34-37).

The closest prior art of record, Egger, in view of Lawrence, however, do not explicitly teach or suggest applicant's particular method of i) "obtaining a context of an extracted character string by performing language analysis of the extracted character string" and identifying a reason why the referred document is cited by retrieving the reason from a table using the "context of the extracted character string" as a reference feature, and ii) "searching the document data for a pattern which matches one of the numeral patterns stored in said first pattern data list storage device, checking whether numerals contained in searched patterns increase consecutively as the document data are searched" and extracting information about the position by searching a "second pattern data list storage device if the numerals increase consecutively". Moreover, the closest prior art fails to anticipate or render Applicant's limitation above obvious.

Art Unit: 2176

Conclusion

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Nguyen-Ba whose telephone number is (571) 272-4094. The examiner can normally be reached on 11 am - 7 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Heather R. Herndon
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

PNB
12/27/06